3728

480032-307RCE

23/G
E. Patterson
3/25/03

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on March 10, 2003 with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

Justina S. Townsend

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of	:	Group Art Unit: 3728
Tracy E. Grim et. al.	:	Examiner: Marie Patterson
Title: **Footgear With Pressure Relief Zones**	:	
Serial No.: 09/592,462	:	
Filed: June 9, 2000	:	

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 20, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

42. Footgear with pressure relief areas for the foot, comprising:

an outer sole;

an inner sole mounted in said footgear above said outer sole, said inner sole having a plurality of independently vertically movable resilient sections arranged in a grid pattern, said independently vertically movable sections having lower surfaces which are separately removably mounted within said footgear and said sections having upper surfaces which together form a substantially smooth and continuous upper surface for engagement by the foot;

said resilient sections being directly adjacent one another to form said grid; and

said grid of resilient sections extending over substantially all of said inner sole;

said grid pattern of resilient sections constituting a multiplicity of sections that sway laterally independently of one another in response to forces applied by the foot, thereby reducing shear stresses on the bottom of a foot as the user walks along;

said footgear having a closed heel/ankle portion;

said footgear including upper footgear parts for holding the foot into the footgear, said upper footgear parts extending over at least a portion of the upper surface of the foot from both sides of the foot; and

said upper surface of said resilient sections being directly exposed for direct engagement with the foot of the user or a sock or stocking on the foot of the user.

43. Footgear with pressure relief areas for the foot, comprising:

an outer sole;

an inner sole mounted in said footgear above said outer sole, said inner sole having a plurality of independently vertically movable resilient sections arranged in a grid pattern, said independently vertically movable sections having lower surfaces which are separately removably mounted within said footgear, and said sections having upper surfaces which together form a substantially smooth and continuous upper surface for engagement by the foot;

said resilient sections being directly adjacent one another to form said grid; and

said grid of resilient sections extending over substantially all of said inner sole;

said footgear having a closed heel/ankle portion;

said footgear including upper footgear parts for holding the foot into the footgear, said upper footgear parts extending over at least a portion of the upper surface of the foot;

arrangements for engaging said upper footgear parts to hold the user's foot into the footgear;

said upper surface of said resilient sections being directly exposed for direct engagement with the foot of the user or a sock or stocking on the foot of the user; and

said grid pattern of resilient sections constituting a multiplicity of sections that sway laterally independently of one another in response to forces applied by the foot, thereby reducing shear stresses on the bottom of a foot as the user walks along.

44. Footgear with pressure relief areas for the foot, comprising:

an outer sole;

an inner sole mounted in said footgear above said outer sole, said inner sole having a plurality of independently vertically movable resilient sections arranged in a grid pattern, said independently vertically movable sections having lower surfaces which are separately removably mounted within said footgear, and said sections having upper surfaces which together form a substantially smooth and continuous upper surface for engagement by the foot;

said resilient sections being directly adjacent one another to form said grid; and

said grid of resilient sections extending over substantially all of said inner sole;

said footgear having a closed heel/ankle portion;

said grid pattern of resilient sections constituting a multiplicity of sections that sway laterally independently of one another in response to forces applied by the foot, thereby reducing shear stresses on the bottom of a foot as the user walks along; and

said upper surface of said sections being directly exposed for direct engagement with the foot of the user or a sock or stocking on the foot of the user.

45. Footgear with pressure relief areas for the foot, comprising:

an outer sole;

an inner sole mounted in said footgear above said outer sole, said inner sole having a plurality of independently vertically movable resilient sections arranged in a grid pattern, said independently vertically movable sections having lower surfaces which are separately removably, mounted within said footgear and said sections having upper surfaces which together form a substantially smooth and continuous upper surface for engagement by the foot;

said resilient sections being directly adjacent one another to form said grid; and

said grid of resilient sections extending over substantially all of said inner sole;

said upper surface of said sections being directly exposed for direct engagement with the foot of the user or a sock or stocking on the foot of the user; and

said grid pattern of resilient sections constituting a multiplicity of sections that sway laterally to a substantial extent independently of one another in response to forces applied by the foot, thereby reducing shear stresses on the bottom of a foot as the user walks along.

50. Orthopaedic footgear with resilient support for the foot, comprising:

an outer sole;

an inner sole mounted in said footgear above said outer sole, said inner sole having a plurality of independently vertically movable resilient sections arranged in a grid pattern, said independently vertically movable sections having upper surfaces which together form a substantially smooth and continuous upper surface for engagement by the foot;

said resilient sections being directly adjacent one another to form said grid;

said upper surface of said sections being of soft resilient material and being directly exposed for direct engagement with the foot of the user or a sock or stocking on the foot of the user; and

said grid pattern of resilient sections constituting a multiplicity of sections that sway laterally independently of one another in response to forces applied by the foot, thereby reducing shear stresses on the bottom of a foot as the user walks along.

53. Orthopaedic footgear as defined in claim 67 wherein said sections are hexagonal in cross section.

57. Orthopaedic footgear with resilient support for the foot, comprising:

an outer sole;

an inner sole mounted in said footgear above said outer sole, said inner sole having a plurality of independently vertically movable resilient sections arranged in a grid pattern, said independently vertically movable sections having upper surfaces which together form a substantially smooth and continuous upper surface for engagement by the foot;

said resilient sections being directly adjacent one another to form said grid;

said upper surface of said sections being of soft resilient material and being directly exposed for direct engagement with the foot of the user or a sock or stocking on the foot of the user;

said grid pattern of resilient sections constituting a multiplicity of sections that sway laterally independently of one another in response to forces applied by the foot, thereby reducing shear stresses on the bottom of a foot as the user walks along; and

said sections having a height and a transverse extent, with the height being greater than said transverse extent.

58. Orthopaedic footgear with resilient support for the foot, comprising:

an outer sole;

an inner sole mounted in said footgear above said outer sole, said inner sole having a plurality of independently vertically movable resilient sections arranged in a grid pattern, said independently vertically movable sections having upper surfaces which together form a substantially smooth and continuous upper surface for engagement by the foot;

said resilient sections being directly adjacent one another to form said grid;